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The Friday Letter

Vol. 11 No. 2

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Assistant Secretary Bertini Visits Midwest Regional Office

Assistant Secretary Bertini visited MWRO staff on December 7 and 8. After addressing the 10th anniversary of the Greater Chicago Food Depository, she and MWRO Administrator Monroe Woods presented a letter of congratulations from President Bush. Bertini also visited a WIC clinic and a food stamp office.



Greater Chicago Food Depository celebrated its 10th anniversary of distributing USDA commodities and other donated foods to area food banks. Assistant Secretary Bertini and MWRO Administrator Monroe Woods presented a letter of congratulations from President Bush to Depository Executive Director Stephen Whitehead.

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Headquarters Begins to Recycle

A few months ago several Food Distribution Division (FDD) headquarters' employees decided they were going to reduce wastepaper disposal destined for landfills. The Environmental Protection Agency seemed to be the logical starting point, so a few FDD members arranged a meeting, which proved to be both informational and a catalyst for action.

FDD discovered that a typical office could save about 17 trees, 2.5 barrels of oil, and 3 cubic yards of landfill space for each ton of recycled paper. With this in mind, FDD contacted the General Services Administration (GSA) Resource Recovery Program. Through this program, contracts are arranged between interested agencies and private recycling companies.

The private company provides containers for the paper and arranges for pickup. The paper is then sorted into three grades of quality, weighed, and given a monetary value.

Next, GSA bills the company, and receives a check that is deposited into a "miscellaneous receipts fund" in the Department of Treasury.

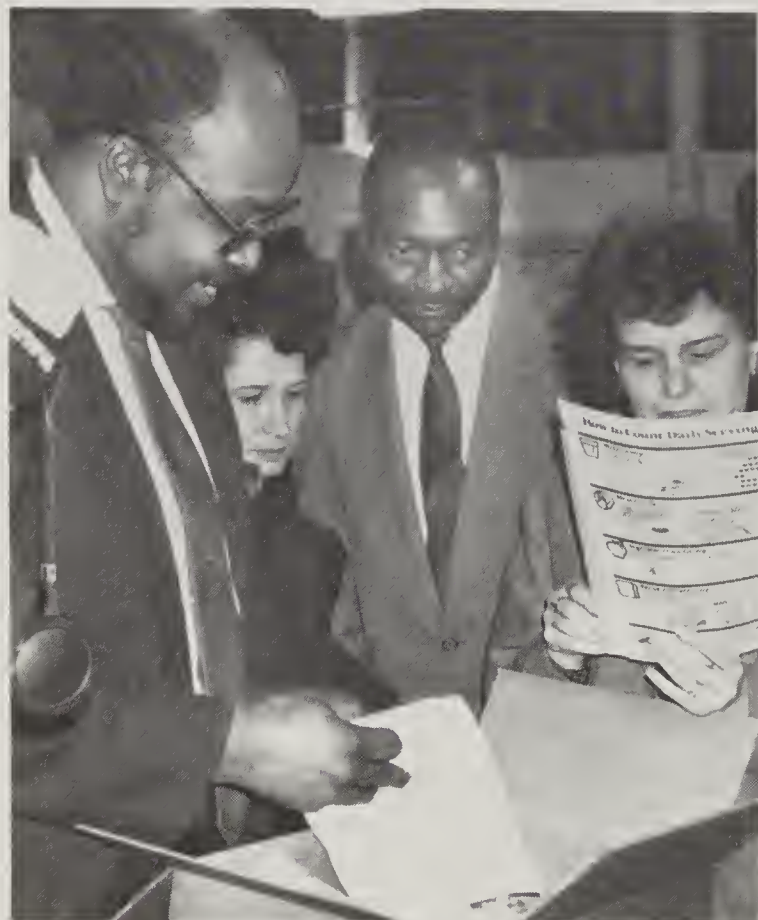
When FDD members heard all the benefits of the program, they set up an account and invited other offices to participate. Two additional offices have already joined FDD in its efforts to save paper. On the first trial run, these participating offices filled five

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(Bertini Continued)



During a tour of the Food Depository facilities, Depository Gleaning Supervisor Joseph Beckham shows Assistant Secretary Bertini a sample of donated dried cauliflower that was being packaged for soup kitchens. MWRO Food Distribution Director Theresa Bowman (left) looks on.



Food Depository Operations Director Michael McCollough examines a food box containing emergency food for 3 days for a single person. Assistant Secretary Bertini reads a nutrition information guide inserted in each box. MWRO Administrator Woods and Food Distribution Director Bowman look on.

Assistant Secretary Bertini visited a Chicago food stamp office and monitored a food stamp client interview using the Illinois Computerized Interactive Interviewing System. All applicant data are entered into the computer by the caseworker during the interview, which expedites the application process.



Assistant Secretary Bertini and MWRO Administrator Woods present a certificate of appreciation to Kathleen Kustra, acting director of the Illinois Department of Public Aid. The certificate recognized Illinois' management efforts resulting in substantial improvements in recovery of overissued food stamps. Illinois increased overissuance collections from \$158,974 in 1980 to \$6,204,823 in 1989.

-Story and photos by Mary Jane Getlinger, MWRO Public Affairs Staff

(Recycle Continued)

large containers in 3 weeks time. To minimize our future resource use, FDD invites any interested headquarters office to participate in this productive program. Please contact Tim Murphy at 756-3660 to join us and/or receive additional information about our efforts.

-Story by Tim Murphy
Food Distribution Division

California "Invests in Excellence" at Corrective Action Conference

The fourth annual California Statewide Corrective Action Conference, recently held in Orange County, again encouraged county-level staff to share techniques and ideas for reducing errors in the Food Stamp Program.

Although most of the nearly 400 attendees were from the state's 58 counties, the State Corrective Action and Western Region Food Stamp Program staffs also participated and presented breakout sessions during the 3-day conference.

Patricia De Beer, administrator of the Nutrition Assistance Program in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and a staff member, also attended the conference. Ann McCormick, acting assistant to the deputy administrator of the Food Stamp Program, presented a session on the "History, Purpose, and Future of the Food Stamp Program," discussing experiments such as the San Diego Cash-Out Program and the Electronic Benefit Transfer and smart card proposals currently under consideration by the agency.



Acting Western Regional Administrator Jack Boozer and Director of the California Department of Social Services Linda S. McMahon were among the keynote speakers.

County employees have found it invaluable to exchange ideas and meet directly with state and Federal staffs, and they are already planning for next year's conference.

-Story and photo by Dee Amaden
WRO Public Affairs Staff

MWRO Reaps Benefits of Networking Conference

"We recognize the linkage between good nutrition and education," said Wisconsin Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction Dick Nelson, as he welcomed more than 70 USDA regional employees and personnel from the six Midwest states to a workshop for state and Federal child nutrition workers.

The third biennial Regional Office-State Agency Training Conference (ROSATC) was sponsored by MWRO's Child Nutrition Section and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

"Step back--observe--reflect--refocus," was the advice of Monroe Woods, MWRO administrator. Woods told participants that they each brought something unique and special to the conference, which fosters a healthy working alliance among the states in his region.

MWRO Child Nutrition Program Director Russ Circo said, "The conference is intended to be a networking mechanism for sharing problems, solutions, and concerns."

The agenda allotted time for discussions of regulations, performance standards, the Federal Review System, AccuClaim, and standards of excellence, as well as new information on child/infant feeding, stress management, computer applications, and skills for negotiating corrective action.

For more information about ROSATC conferences, contact Russ Circo at FTS 353-6673.

-Story by Mary Jane Getlinger
MWRO Public Affairs Staff

NERO Features a Cultural Events Program



Bernadette Yao (right), host producer of "Asian Focus," a cultural events program for the Boston Asian Community, was the featured guest at NERO's recent Asian/Pacific Islander Heritage Program.

Yao, shown here with NERO Administrator Harold McLean, discussed her show and experiences as a television producer. She also brought video clips of her show including an interview with network anchor Connie Chung.

-Story and photo by
NERO Public Affairs Staff

Director Vernon Morgan, MPRO Administrator David Alspach, and four MPRO staff members conducted the FNS briefings.

Lonnie Revels, North Carolina State Indian Commissioner, joined MPRO Administrator David Alspach at an Indian child-care center serving an afternoon snack. Revels has served several years on the USDA citizens advisory panel charged with insuring that Federal programs meet the needs of minority groups.



MPRO Special Nutrition Programs staffer Mary Nielsen briefed the group on how FNS food programs serve minority populations. After each hearing session at different locations, the committee members make recommendations directly to the Secretary of Agriculture.

MPRO Hosts EEO Hearing

MPRO staff played host to the Secretary of Agriculture's Citizens Advisory Council on Civil Rights. The citizens' group holds hearings around the country to determine whether USDA programs are serving minorities adequately and fairly.

The Denver visit focused on FNS, Extension Service, Forest Service, and other USDA programs serving urban and elderly minority groups. Geoffrey Gay from the Office of Regional Operations and MPRO staff arranged a commodity luncheon at a senior center and a visit to the Denver Indian Center, which operates a child-care center serving FNS-reimbursed snacks and lunches. ORO



-Story and photos by Craig Forman
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

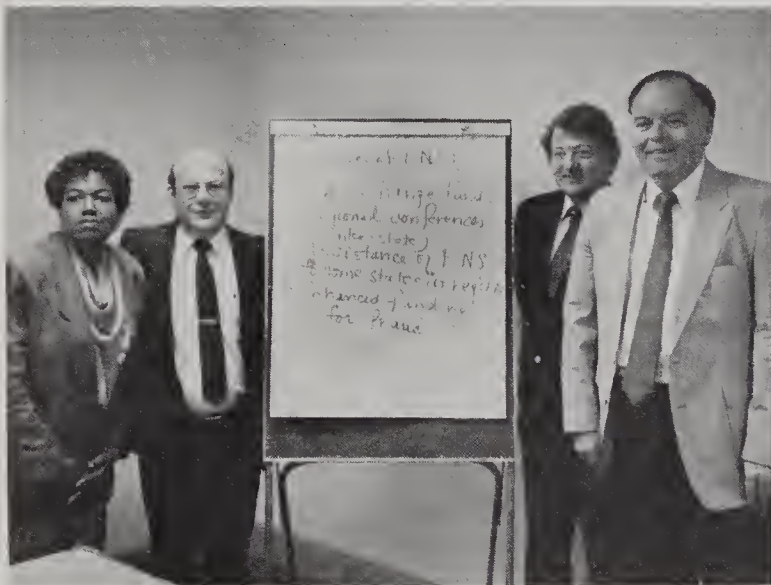
MWRO Holds Corrective Action Conference

The MWRO Food Stamp Program Evaluation Section recently hosted a Corrective Action, Management, Evaluation, Reporting, and Analysis (CAMERA) Conference in Chicago.

MWRO Administrator Monroe Woods welcomed over 60 participants from all of the Midwest states as well as representatives from New York and Maine. Each MWRO field office, the Midwest and Northeast Regional Offices, and headquarters were also represented.



-Story and photos by
MWRO Public Affairs Staff



Cecelia Fitzgerald (left), representing the Program Accountability Division, MWRO Food Stamp Program Director Dustan Van Vleet, Certification and Policy Branch Chief Joe Pinto, and MWRO Deputy Administrator Thomas Pate discussed the results of the state agency caucus. Other topics included the pursuit of excellence, the customer service concept, quality in human services, successful individual state corrective action, state newsletters, and upcoming regulations.

Following the conference, MWRO Food Stamp Program and field office staff met to discuss corrective action, monitoring, and improved methods for conducting management evaluation reviews. Pictured above are (from left) Glenn Wieby of the Minneapolis Field Office, Shirley Myles of the Detroit Field Office, Mary Graf of the Columbus Field Office, Mike Roach of the Cincinnati Field Office, Bill Krause of the Cleveland Field Office, Elvis Rowland of the Springfield Field Office, and Ed Colby of the MWRO staff.

MARO Hosts Employee Ethnic Fair

MARO recently held its second annual Ethnic Fair. Employees were enthusiastic to show pride in their heritage by bringing personal family items for the ethnic display day. Presentations by employees were given throughout the month.

Susan Hilberg, food program specialist, discussed the waves of emigration to the United States in the past 300 years. For the people who came to this country, it was a time of hardship and hope.

Tom Leverich, Child Care Food Program unit leader, explained how to research your family's history and genealogy. Through various research methods, Leverich was able to trace his family's line back to the 1600's and his wife's to the 1500's.

Dan Wilusz, financial analyst, gave a humorous presentation on the history of Poland and further explained how you could be Polish even though your name does not end in "ski."

The month ended with a luncheon that featured foods from a wide variety of countries and cultures.

-Story by Kim Jabat
MARO Public Affairs Staff

Friday Letter Vacancy Listing by Vacancy Number

JOB TITLE	AREA OF CONSID.	SERIES	GRADE	CLOSING DATE	VACANCY NUMBER	OFFICE LOCATION
o Nutritionist	(A)	GS-0630	13	02/27/90	90-H-34	HNIS
o Nutritionist	(A)	GS-0630	11/12	02/26/90	90-H-40	HNIS
o Management Analyst	(G)	GS-0343	13	02/20/90	90-41	IRMD
o Supvry Program Analyst	(A)	GM-0345	15	02/20/90	90-44	OAE
o Management Analyst	(FNS-N)	GS-0343	13	02/20/90	90-45	IRMD
o Home Economist	(HNIS)	GS-0493	11/12	02/14/90	90-H-46	HNIS
o Secretary (Typing)	(FNS-HQ)	GS-0318	6/7	02/20/90	90-47	PID
o Secretary (Typing)	(FNS-HQ)	GS-0318	7	02/20/90	90-48	NTSD
o Program Analyst	(A)	GM-0345	14	03/05/90	90-49	OAE
o Program Analyst	(A)	GM-0345	14	03/05/90	90-50	OAE

Office Location

OAE - Office of Analysis and Evaluation
 HNIS - Human Nutrition Information Service
 IRMD - Information Resources Management Div.
 NTSD - Nutrition and Technical Services
 Division
 PID - Program Information Division

Area of Consideration

(A) - All Sources
 (G) - Governmentwide
 (FNS-HQ) - Food and Nutrition
 Service (Hdqs.)
 (FNS-N) - FNS (Nationwide)
 (HNIS) - Human Nutrition
 Information Service

Mary E. Kennedy, Editor

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